June 22, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The undersigned organizations commend you and a majority in the House for approving the June 2 and 15 amendments by Rep. Sessions of Texas to H.R. 2017, the 2012 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, and H.R. 2112, the 2012 Department of Agriculture Appropriations Act, to strike language in both which would have imposed limitations on OMB Circular A-76 competitions.

We respectfully urge you to keep similar anti-taxpayer, anti-free enterprise provisions from the remaining appropriations bills.

The June 2 Sessions amendment was approved by a recorded vote of 218-204, and the June 15 Sessions amendment was approved by a recorded vote of 226-199, respectively demonstrating the will of Congress on this matter. Both amendments struck hold-over provisions from the previous Congress.

According to OMB, GAO and the Center for Naval Analysis, savings of 30% are achieved when implementing competitive sourcing/A-76 public-private cost comparisons to commercial activities currently performed by the government. There are more than 850,000 federal employees performing commercial activities, according to agency inventories compiled under the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998, Public Law 105-270. The Heritage Foundation estimates that if competition is applied to all 850,000 positions, the annual savings would reach $27 billion.

At a time of 9.1% unemployment and anemic private sector job creation, an annual deficit of $1.5 trillion, and a national debt of $14.3 trillion, Congress should be encouraging cost savings and growth in the private sector. Provisions like those stricken from H.R. 2017 and H.R. 2112 that prohibit, impede, interfere, obstruct, encumber, or delay OMB Circular A-76 or competitive sourcing studies, or that provide for insourcing – the cancelation of contracts to the private sector and the conversion of work to performance by federal employees – should be kept off all remaining appropriations bills.

As the Committee on Appropriations continues to mark-up and report bills making appropriations for fiscal year 2012, we respectfully recommend that provisions inhibiting the utilization of the private sector <u>not</u> be included in such bills.

Sincerely,

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